

**Minutes of the
AMBER Collaboration Board Meeting at GARCHING
on June 5, 2025, 15:00 Geneva time**

Attendance: C. Azevedo, B. Badelek, J. Berenguer, A. Bressan, M. Chiosso, M. Crespo, O. Denisov, N. Doshita, H. Fischer, S. Groote, E. Kabuß, B. Ketzer, S. Levorato, J. Lichtenstadt, K. Liu, J. Matousek, T. Matsuda, J. Novy, S. Paul, C. Quintans, M. Stolarski, P. Zuccon, J. Friedrich, M. Veit, N. Anfimov, T. Pöschl, O. Kiselev

Apologies: J. Bernauer, K. Brinkmann (replaced by S. Diehl), S. Dasgupta, R. Kurjata, B. Seitz

Absent: A. Guskov, D. Keller, F. Maas, N. Masi, D. Panzieri, H. Suzuki, M. Alekseev, D. Neyret, G. Mallot

The agenda was:

1. Welcome, Attendance and Apologies
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes
 - CB meeting March 6, 2025
4. Communications by SPs
5. 2025 run
6. Appointment of PubCom member
7. Addendum to MoU (Ljubljana)
8. Cost application/Future programs
9. Communications by CB chair
10. AOB

Maria Crespo takes the seat for ICTP. Welcome to Maria, thanks a lot to Andres Cicuttin!

2. Approval of Agenda

The items on the agenda were approved without changes.

3. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the CB meeting on 6.3.25 were approved without changes.

4. Communications by SPs (given by Oleg Denisov)

a) Visit of designated DG

- Mark Thomson visited AMBER on 8.5.25
- AMBER physics and spectrometer introduced, plans for upcoming years discussed
- Very positive feedback

b) Pre-SPSC meeting with referees (26.5.25)

- Detailed detector progress reported
- Beam time plans for 2025 discussed
- Request for time lines (Gantt charts) for all projects
- We have to be aware that we are under special observation concerning for the readiness for the PRM measurement

c) Informal feedback from SPSC on 27.5.25

The effort of the collaboration to mitigate delays is acknowledged. Still there is quite some concern about the readiness for the PR measurement. The annual review in September will be a key milestone for the collaboration. Realistic projections for the 2026 data taking should be given.

We had quite some discussions on what and how we should give the information asked for. Also what kind of projections we should give for 2026, realistic or minimal physics case? We have to start to prepare the information for the annual review very soon so that it can be discussed carefully in the collaboration before sending it to SPSC.

d) PAW25

Very successful workshop. Many thanks to Stephan, Jan and all TUM people.

e) Finances

The closure of the account for 2024 was 246 kCHF.

The spending up to now was 139 kCHF.

Collected up to were 138 kCHF.

The remaining invoices for 2024 will be send in the next month.

f) Financing of ALPIDE

An extra request for money for ALPIDEs was send to all groups. About 57 kCHF collected, roughly the amount needed for 2025.

Thanks to all groups who could contribute.

g) Interactions with CERN

Although we have no CERN group in AMBER, we received quite some money from EP during last years, mainly for safety. We hope for similar support in the coming year(s).

But there will be no direct involvement of CERN until the LHC lumi upgrade is over. Still some discussions started with CERN to find intermediate solutions.

5. 2025 run

Nikolay gave a compact repetition of his talk in the collaboration meeting. Two points were discussed in some detail.

Projects for students before start of data taking:

- Together with detector experts and TC a list of projects is being collected.
- It was pointed out that supervision of the students has to be guaranteed.

Start of 24/7 shift coverage:

- Mandatory when hydrogen operation starts
- It was pointed out that many usefull tasks can be performed if we start data taking already with He, e.g. alignment, calibrations, online analysis, correllation TPC/spectrometer
- It was agreed to start 24/7 shifts on 1.9.25

6. Appointment of PubCom member

Current PubCom members:

Michela Chiosso (chair), Horst Fischer, Marcin Stolarski, Stefan Diehl

Horst's second mandate ended in March 25,

Michela will leave PubCom when she takes over as SP.

Jan Matousek and **Stefan Groote** were **unanimously appointed** as new members and both accepted the appointment.

And thanks a lot to Horst!

7. Addendum for MoU (Ljubljana)

The Ljubljana group was already introduced in the December CB meeting. Jan presented now the draft of the Addendum to the MoU.

The Addendum to the MoU was approved unanimously by the CB members.

Ljubljana will have a seat in the CB starting from the next CB meeting.

8. Cost application/Future programs

Catarina gave a summary of the outcome of the COST application and about other funding possibilities.

COST action: SHARP

- Approved (9.5.25) with about 150 kEuro in 4 years
- 58 proposers from 18 countries from theory, experiment and phenomenology
- includes AMBER, COMPASS, HERMES, PANDA, JLab, EIC, LHC spin.....
- any colleagues can join at any time
- kick-off meeting between 19.9. and 31.10.25
- proposed: conferences, workshops, schools, Webpage, mini-workshops

New opportunity: EU Horizon Europe

- Follow-up of Strong2020 (EU Horizon 2020) planned
- Area 2: Physical sciences and engineering: hadron physics
- Submission of a STRONG2020-like project: deadline 18.9.25
- Letters of intent (2 pages) to be submitted till 15.6.25
- Scientific cases:
 - Experiment (beam-time exploitation, data preparation, analysis and interpretation, methods and tools)
 - Short-term R&D
 - Theory and phenomenology
- Many groups that were active in STRONG2020 started discussions to prepare LoI

Marie-Curie Doctoral Networks

- Applying for up to 10 PhD grants for 3 years on a common topic e.g. Hadron Physics at AMBER
- Exchange of excellent PhD students in a network of Universities/Institutes
- Deadline for submission 25.11.25

There is clear interest in AMBER to apply for such a Doctoral Network. We can profit from the COST experience for the complex application. There are some volunteers to get started with such an application.

9. Communications by CB chair

Result of SP election

Already communicated to the collaboration:

Out of 118 eligible voters 98 valid votes were submitted.

The results are:

Michela Chiosso: 83 yes, 15 abstains

Bernhard Ketzer: 83 yes, 15 abstains

Congratulations to Michela and Bernhard. The new SPs will take over beginning of August 2025.

Once more thanks to Carlos for organizing the election!

Dates of 2025 collaboration meetings

3. CM meeting Wed 24.9.-Fri 26.9.25, CB Thu 25.9.25 15:00 Geneva time

4. CM meeting Wed 10.12.-Fri 12.12.25, CB Thu 11.12.25 15:00 Geneva time (remote)

Dates for 2026 will be settled in the September meeting.

10. AOB

There were two short AOB:

Thomas Pöschl pointed out that his contract with CERN ends at the end of November. We should start in time to look for a new analysis coordinator.

Barbara Badelek inquired about the shape and content of the AMBER webpage. PubCom is discussing the update of the content, but they are waiting for the transfer of the Webpage to the new tool by CERN.

End of meeting: 18:35